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1927
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MONTICELLO NURSERY COMPANY

MONTICELLO, FLORIDA

*One of the Oldest and Largest Pecan Nurseries
in the World*



Showing the Comparison between the Mahan and the Schley Pecan

¶ The Mahan Pecan won the honor of being the best quality pecan in ¶
the world-wide contest held at San Saba, Texas, in December, 1925 ¶

THE life history of the \$5,000.00 Mahan Pecan Tree, purchased from Mr. J. M. Chesnutt, of Kosciusko, Mississippi, by the Monticello Nursery Company of Monticello, Florida, which is undoubtedly the highest priced pecan tree in the world.

About sixteen years ago I was visiting the State Fair at Jackson, Mississippi, and noticed a man going through the grounds with a fruit jar containing a few pecans. Several parties that were just ahead of me tried to buy these pecans, but he refused to sell even one of them. After looking them over and seeing what wonderful nuts they were, I told him I needed a few of them very badly, much more than he needed all of them. I then persuaded him to sell me five, which he did for the sum of one dollar.

The pecans I bought from this gentleman were not so large as the "Mahan" pecan, but were practically the same shape. In planting this pecan I did not exercise any care, for I stuck a stick in the soil making a hole two or three inches deep, dropped the nut in and covered with dirt raked in with my heel. The nut came up in time and grew very rapidly, attaining the height of about five feet the first year with five or six limbs coming out at the top. It continued to grow rapidly and has always looked vigorous.

The seventh year it bore 36 pecans which were a wonderful improvement over the one that was planted. This tree has always borne a good crop, the nuts fully holding their size with good weight and the same delicious flavor. While I have never weighed the crop of nuts from this tree, I would think that the yield would average from twenty-five to forty-five pounds at least.

The tree is now about 45 feet in height, with good shape and has a good crop of nuts on it.

In front of me as I write, there lies one of last year's nuts that weighs 286 grains; is $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length and $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches in circumference.

The leaves are very large with stem averaging often from eighteen to twenty-four inches long. The tree holds its deep green foliage until frost or later.

I have never detected any scale or blight of any kind on this tree, and a recent examination by an expert found it free of anything and in perfect

condition. I have never sprayed or given this tree any special attention. All I have done in its behalf was to keep the weeds cut down that tried to grow under it. No fertilizer of any kind has been used around it.

(Signed) J. M. CHESNUTT,

Sept. 20, 1924.

Kosciusko, Miss.

We are grieved to report that our friend Mr. Chesnutt passed away October 14th, 1926, and was buried in the city cemetery at Kosciusko, Miss.

He has left an enduring monument to his memory in the discovery and growing of what is said to be the finest pecan nut in the world—the Mahan.

Extracts from a Letter Announcing the Award of the Committee in the World-wide Contest.

Bend, Texas, Dec. 20, 1925.

Mr. F. A. Mahan,
Monticello, Florida.
Dear Sir:

Enclosed find check as a prize for the best pecan in a World-wide Contest. The Mahan pecan is the best pecan judged from all standpoints that we have any record of. If it does as well here as the ones you sent your fortune is made.

Sincerely,
(Signed) D. F. MOORE.

*I*N DECEMBER, 1925, we entered the Mahan Pecan in the World-wide Contest that was held at College Station, Texas. At this contest they invited anyone in the world to enter their pecans in order to find any new varieties of merit and to find the best quality pecan. A contest of this sort is generally held about every three or four years.

We have won this honor twice. In December, 1921, we won this honor with our Schley pecans. In 1925 we entered the Mahan pecan, also the Schley from the tree that won the prize in 1921.

In December, 1925, the judges in the World-wide Contest pronounced the Mahan pecan as being the best quality pecan in the world, winning over Schley and all other varieties.

Any nut that can beat the Schley for quality, surely has to be a good one. The Schley has been King of all pecan nuts for a good many years, and rightly so.

Just think of the delicious flavor and fine quality of the Schley pecan nut, and you would no doubt often wonder how there could be another pecan nut better than the Schley. Then think of the Mahan pecan and what a delicious flavor it must have, to be better than the Schley, and it has been pronounced so, not by us, but by the judges who know pecans. Then think of having 42 nuts to make a pound, yet when you crack them you have over 61% meat and only 38% shell. This is what the Mahan pecan has done. A nut that can do this, surely must have meat inside its shell, in order to crack out nearly two-thirds meat and only a little over one-third shell.

If you think that a nut does not have to be well filled to do this, just take a pound of nuts and crack them, then weigh every bit of meat, then every bit of the shell, and see where you would be. If you should happen to have one or two nuts that were not well filled, after cracking them you would find that your percentage would run way low. In order to have a high percentage of meat you would have to have practically every nut well filled.

So just think what a wonderful nut this must be, and to the planter who is familiar with the Schley, just think what this Mahan variety will mean to us, who know the one bad fault of the Schley tree, and that is, that it scabs so badly. We have the Mahan budded into Van Deman, budded into Schley, and have a block of them in the nursery right next to the Delmas. The Van Deman tree that I have budded to the Mahan variety has scab on it, but the Mahan buds are free of scab. The Schley tree that the Mahan is budded into, the Schley has scab on it, but the Mahan buds are free of scab. The Delmas has a lot of scab on it, while the Mahan trees right next to it are free of scab. I do not mean to say that it will not scab in the long run, but I do mean to say that if it stays free as it is now there is no need of worrying about scab on this variety. So cannot you see what this might mean to all of us who love pecans?

Read this article carefully and if you have any criticism to make, do not hesitate in writing us, as we did not judge this pecan, it was judged by the judges in the World-wide Contest, who pronounced it to be the best quality pecan in the world. Nor did we make this tree. God made it. We merely bought it, and are trying to reproduce this variety.

The price of these trees may seem high to some of you, but take a balled evergreen costing from

\$20.00 to \$25.00, something pretty to look at, palms at from \$5.00 to \$10.00, well, in fact, a thousand different plants that are just pretty to look at. The Mahan tree is not only pretty to look at but will feed you and produce food for you to sell—food of the highest quality.

So do not lose this opportunity of getting one or more of these trees for fall, 1927, delivery, as it is only a year to wait now. The trees are being booked pretty fast, so let us have your order for one or more of these trees, and if you find that you cannot use the trees at that time, your order will be cancelled for you and the 10% deposit required will be returned to you. The price of the Mahan trees are \$5.00 each, in lots of one or one thousand. They are one price to everybody.

And if we can be of service to you in any way, whether it is regarding the Mahan or your own pecans, do not hesitate to call on us. We will be glad to give you any information we can, at any time, as this is your company, at your service. We are merely running it for you.

CHASE NURSERY COMPANY, Inc.

Chase, Alabama

January 2, 1926.

Monticello Nursery Co.,

F. A. MAHAN,

Monticello, Florida.

Dear Mr. Mahan:

The Mahan nuts arrived this morning, and after sampling them, we every one pronounced it the finest Pecan we have ever come in contact with, the shells easily crush in the hand and they are filled to the limit, and the quality is wonderful.

Can realize that due to this unusually dry Summer the size of these nuts is not up to that of those I saw a year ago, but even if they were never larger than these nuts, we would still class it as the finest Pecan we have ever sampled.

It pleases the writer mightily that you are handling your customers for this new Pecan as you are doing, giving them a chance to cancel their orders if they wish to do so, because the nut this year is not up to the size you figured on. We believe that very few, if any, will cancel out after sampling the quality of the nuts. You are certainly playing the game fair and square, and this is the only way to build a business. Congratulations.

With every good wish for 1926, we are,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) CHASE NURSERY COMPANY,

HCB-B: H

H. B. Chase, President,

P. S.—Your Packing House is a crackerjack!

MONTICELLO NURSERY COMPANY'S

\$5,000 PECAN TREE .

Purchased from J. M. Chesnutt, of Kosciusko, Miss., which is undoubtedly the highest priced pecan tree in the world.



This tree will be moved from its present home at Kosciusko, Miss., to Monticello, Florida, in the Spring of 1927.

This tree has been cut back heavily for the past two years. The past year we cut the whole top out of it. We did this so that it would not be too much of a shock to the tree, as would have been the case if we had cut it back all at once. However, in spite of this, after having the top cut out, and heavily cut back otherwise, this tree has a fairly good crop of nuts on it, which is something very unusual, as a tree does not generally bear after being so severely cut back.



Address all communications to
MONTICELLO NURSERY COMPANY
MONTICELLO, FLORIDA